



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
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NEWS RELEASE

115 Adopted Children Become Newest U.S. Citizens at Special Citizenship Ceremony

CHICAGO, IL. June 26, 2000 – One hundred and fifteen adopted children from 16 different countries today became new U.S. citizens during a special citizenship ceremony held by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Chicago District Office at the Harold Washington Library's Winter Garden. More than 200 proud parents, family members, and friends attended this special event.

“Today, I’m honored to welcome these children, not only as fellow citizens, but as important contributors to our nation’s future,” said INS Deputy District Director Christine Davis. “As we approach the 4th of July holiday, we are proud to welcome these, our youngest new citizens, to the United States of America.”

During the ceremony the children, ranging in age from 2 to 17, raised their right hands and recited the following children’s oath of allegiance with the assistance of their parents. “I will love and be true to the United States. I will support its constitution. Obey its flag. And defend it against all enemies.” Eight of the families participating in today’s ceremony adopted multiple children and were able to see the siblings become citizens together.

“INS conducts children’s ceremonies as a way of making children feel welcome to their new country. They are popular with the children, their proud parents, and other family members and friends,” said Davis.

These 115 children join the more than 23,000 new citizens naturalized by INS in Chicago since the beginning of this fiscal year on October 1, 1999. More than 500 adopted children became U.S. citizens in Chicago last fiscal year.

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